

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 88

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Oliver Kelley Spears, Jr.,
of Maryville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Oliver Kelly Spears, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spears was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as the co-owner of Spears Furniture Company, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and customers alike for the exemplary level of concern he gave to every facet of the business; and

WHEREAS, born October 9, 1922, in Walland to the late Oliver Kelley Spears, Sr., and Marjorie Blazer Spears, Oliver Spears attended Maryville High School, where he played football, baseball, and basketball, the three sports he also played as a student at Maryville College; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from Maryville College, Mr. Spears, a talented and able athlete, joined the Gulf Oil Refiners, a semi-professional basketball which traveled throughout the southeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, a member of our country's greatest generation, Mr. Spears joined the Army Air Corps during World War II; he bravely served as a B-17 bombardier in the 8th Air Force, 95th Bomber Group, an intrepid company of men whose motto was "First over Berlin;" following his service in the Army Air Corps, he enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserve, from which he later retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, as the co-owner of Spears Furniture Company, which was founded by his father and which he ran with his brother, the late John "Artie" Spears, Oliver Spears stood as an upstanding model of the trustworthy and civic-minded business owner; and

WHEREAS, a community-minded individual, Mr. Spears served on the Boards of Directors of Blount National Bank, First American Bank, and the Bank of East Tennessee, was instrumental in the founding of both the Boys Club of Blount County and the Eagleton Little League, and rendered sterling service as a member of the Parks and Recreation Board, the Boys Club, the Industrial Board, and the North Maryville Lions Club; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Oliver Spears, Jr., enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty-two years, Barbara Smith Spears, and was the proud father of Kelly and Donna Spears, Mike and Helen Spears, Melinda and Al Boling, and Tommy and Sandy Spears; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his ten grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a host of friends and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spears leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Oliver Kelly Spears, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Spears.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.